Application Serial No. 09/460,913

system, the speech decoding engine and the speech synthesizing engine; and (F) at least one user interface data set operatively coupled to the dialog manager, the user interface data set representing spoken language interface elements and data recognizable by the application of the device; wherein: (i) the dialog manager enables connection between the input audio system and the speech decoding engine such that the spoken utterance provided by the user is provided from the input audio system to the speech decoding engine; (ii) the output generated by the speech decoding engine is returned to the dialog manager; (iii) the dialog manager uses the output generated by the speech decoding engine to search the user interface data set for a corresponding spoken language interface element and data which is returned to the dialog manager when found; (iv) the dialog manager provides the spoken language interface element associated data to the application of the device for processing in accordance therewith; (v) the application of the device, on processing that element, provides a reference to an interface element to be spoken; (vi) the dialog manager enables connection between the audio output system and the speech synthesizing engine such that the speech synthesizing engine which, accepting data from that element, generates a synthesized output that expresses that element; and (vii) the audio output system audibly presenting the synthesized output to the user; a method for modifying a data structure containing the at least one user interface data set, comprising:

adding a new application to the device;

generating a second user interface data set in accordance with the new application, the second user interface data set representing spoken language interface elements and data recognizable by the new application;

transferring the second user interface data set from the device to the apparatus; and

loading the second user interface data set into the data structure of the apparatus.

18. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the portable spoken language interface device comprises a personal speech assistant (PSA), the PSA comprising:

an audio input system for receiving speech data provided by the user;

an audio output system for outputting speech data to the user;

a speech decoding engine for generating an output in response to spoken utterances;

2

a speech synthesizing engine for generating a synthesized speech output in response to text data;

a dialog manager operatively coupled to the device, the audio input system, the audio output system, the speech decoding engine and the speech synthesizing engine; and

at least one user interface data set operatively coupled to the dialog manager, the user interface data set representing spoken language interface elements and data recognizable by the application of the device;

wherein:

the dialog manager enables connection between the input audio system and the speech decoding engine such that the spoken utterance provided by the user is provided from the input audio system to the speech decoding engine;

the output generated by the speech decoding engine is returned to the dialog manager;

the dialog manager uses the output generated by the speech decoding engine to search the user interface data set for a corresponding spoken language interface element and data which is returned to the dialog manager when found;

the dialog manager provides the spoken language interface element associated data to the application of the device for processing in accordance therewith;

the application of the device, on processing that element, provides a reference to an interface element to be spoken;

the dialog manager enables connection between the audio output system and the speech synthesizing engine such that the speech synthesizing engine which, accepting data from that element, generates a synthesized output that expresses that element; and

the audio output system audibly presents the synthesized output to the user.